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AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

for the

YEAR 1954

H.S. BURY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

J.P. MEARS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE AMPHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the annual report upon the health, vital statistics and sanitary conditions of the Ampthill Urban District for the year 1954.

The vital statistics for the District during 1954 indicate a satisfactory level of health in the community.

The birth rate continues to be high and the infant mortality low (one death under the age of one year), and the death rate very low. With such a small population, however, wide fluctuations of these rates are to be expected and are not of great significance.

Throughout the year the water supply of the District was adequate in quantity and quality and a further small extension was made to the mains. Practically all the premises in the District are on main drainage. This is causing some overloading of the Sewage Works which is in need of considerable extension and alteration to take the ever increasing load.

During the year the Ampthill House Estate was developed for private residential purposes. It will be of great benefit to the District.

The County Report of the 1951 Census was published during the year and revealed some interesting facts. The population of Bedfordshire increased from 63,393 in 1801 to 206,462 in 1921. At this time the population of Ampthill Urban District was 2,270, it had fallen slightly in 1931 to 2,168 and in 1951 it had risen to 2,873, (1,364 males and 1,509 females), an increase in 20 years of 32.5% only 3.7% of which was accounted for by natural increase resulting in an excess of births over deaths. A 28.8% increase, therefore, being due to inward migration. No indication of the origin of this increase is given for this district but taking the County as a whole, out of every 1,000 of the population 60 persons were born in Wales, Scotland or Ireland, 7 in Commonwealth or Colonial countries and 19 in foreign countries. A tabular analysis of the total population showing age and sex structure is shown in the body of the report.

912 dwellings were found to be occupied, including 1 caravan and 39 were vacant at the time of the Census. A certain amount of overcrowding was revealed, for instance; no persons were found to be living more than 3 per room, 19 persons more than 2 per room, 54 persons more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ per room and 283 more than 1 per room, i.e. 0.69% living more than 2 per room in 1951, compared with 0.53% in 1931. This indicates a slight increase in overcrowding. Approximately 17% of households had no piped water supply, 1% had no cooking stoves, 11% no kitchen sinks, 4% no W.C., and 45% no bathroom. Only 52% of households had the exclusive use of all five of these amenities. Of those persons not living in private households, 4 were living in hotels and 99 in miscellaneous establishments.

The distribution of the population between the various social classes was as follows:- 4% were in Social Class I (Professional occupations) 16% in Class II (Intermediate occupations) 47 in Class III (Skilled occupations) 19% in Class IV (Partly skilled occupations) and 14% in Class V (Unskilled occupations)

In conclusion I would like to thank the members of the Council and Council staff for their help and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. S. BURY.

16th July, 1955.

Medical Officer of Health.

AMPHILL URBAN DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
For 1954

1. OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health - H.S. BURY, M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector and Housing Manager -

J.P. MEARS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Water Engineer - R.W. COLLISON.

2. GENERAL STATISTICS RELATING TO THE DISTRICT.

Area	acres 1,904
Population -	
Census for 1951	2,873
Registrar General's estimate of home population mid-year 1954	3,050
Number of inhabited houses	1,028
Rateable Value	£17,932
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£68. Os. 4d.

3. SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Amphill is in the Southern Half of the County and is approximately midway between Bedford and Luton. The town is placed on high ground, but pleasantly screened by well wooded countryside on two elevations; the district is situated in a part of the County noted for its fine woodlands and scenery and Amphill itself is well known for its buildings of architectural interest.

Amphill station is on the main line from St. Pancras and the district is well served by the United Counties Omnibus Service.

The district is mainly residential, with a few light industries including a laundry, agricultural engineering, fodder mill, and a firm of refrigeration engineers.

The Council's housing programme is proceeding most satisfactorily, particularly the development of Saunders Piece Estate, which will ultimately provide accommodation for approximately one hundred families.

Private development is rapidly becoming predominant due to the commencement of a residential estate on the site and lands of Amphill House.

Many of the inhabitants travel daily to Luton and Bedford for their employment, particularly in the factories there, but others are employed at Messrs. J.R. Ferguson's factory and the brickworks which are quite nearby. The remainder are engaged in farming, market gardening and other employment consistent with a small town of this size.

Amphill Park provides facilities for cricket, football, hockey and fishing, and a children's recreation ground where equipment is continually being added. Other sporting and social activities are provided by the Bowls Club, Rugby and Badminton Clubs, Choral and Dramatic Societies and the Amphill Town Band, and mainly for the younger people, Scouts and Youth Organisations.

4. VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births

			Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	27	20	47
Illegitimate	...	...	--	1	1
Total	...	...	27	21	48
Crude Birth Rate	...		15.7	per 1,000 home population	
Comparable Birth Rate	...		16.7	"	"

(The comparability factor for the District being 1.06)

As compared with:-

Average of last 5 years	...	16.4	per 1,000	home population
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	15.3	"	"
Rate for England and Wales		15.2	"	"

Still Births

			Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	--	1	1
Illegitimate	--	--	--
Total	--	1	1

Still Birth Rate 20.4 per 1,000 live and still births

As compared with:-

Average of last 5 years	...	24.8	per 1,000	live and still births
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	24.4	"	"
Rate for England and Wales		24.0	"	"

Deaths

			Males	Females	Total
Deaths in the District	...		8	6	14
Transferred into District	...		11	3	14
Transferred from District	...		2	--	2
Total	...		21	9	30
Crude Death Rate	...		8.5	per 1,000 home population	
Comparable Death Rate	...		6.4	"	"

(The comparability factor for the District being .75)

As compared with:-

Average of last 5 years	...	13.9	per 1,000	home population
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	10.0	"	"
Rate for England and Wales		11.3	"	"

Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age

			Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	1	--	1
Illegitimate	...	...	--	--	--
Total	...	...	1	--	1

Infant Mortality Rate 20.9 per 1,000 related live births

As compared with:-

Average of last 5 years	...	16.0	per 1,000	related live births
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	26.5	"	"
Rate for England and Wales		25.5	"	"

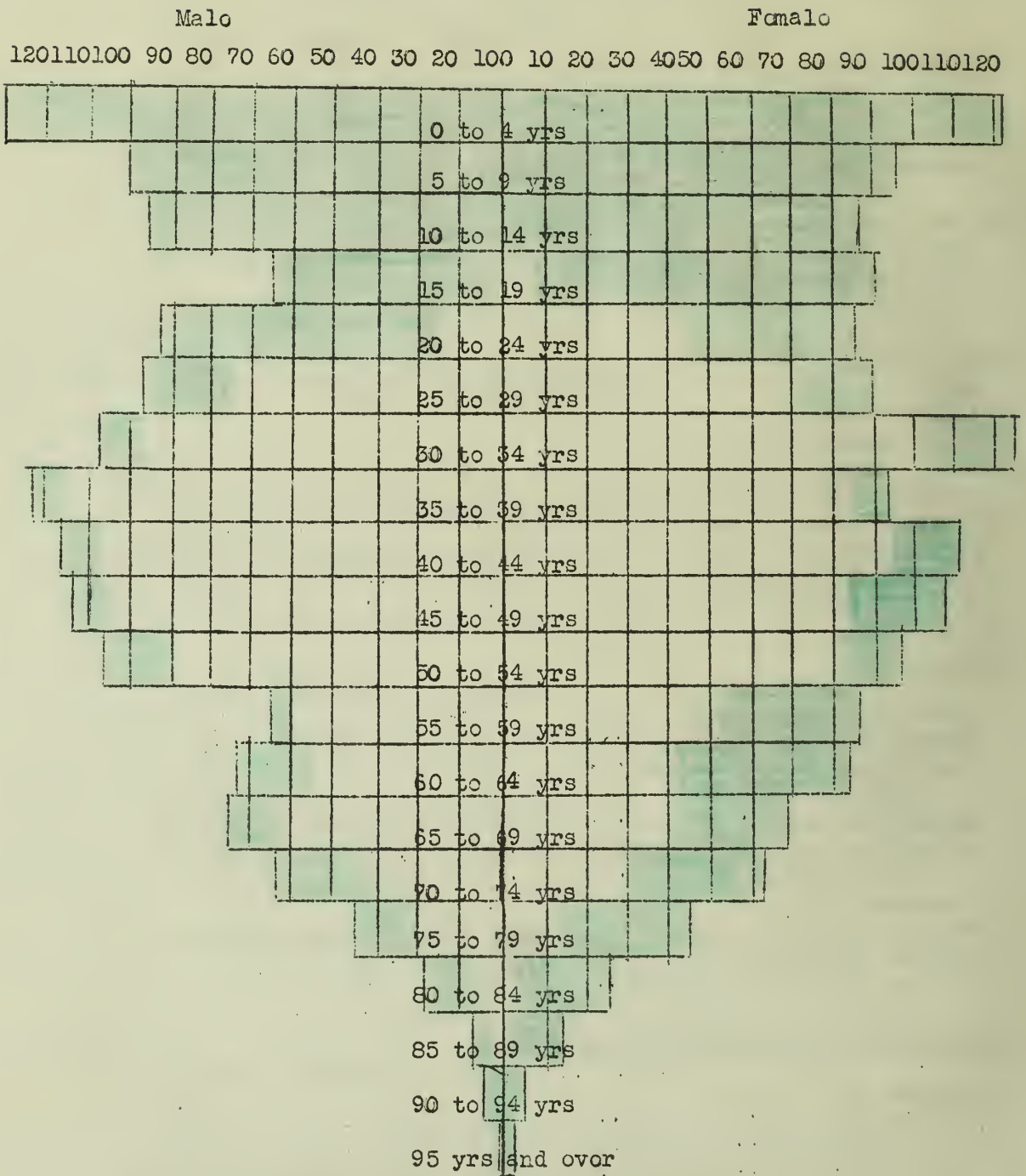
Deaths Connected with Childbirth

Maternal Mortality NIL per 1,000 live births

As compared with:-

Average of last 5 years	...	0.00	per 1,000	live births
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	0.60	"	"
Rate for England and Wales		0.69	"	"

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION 1951.



single



married

PRINCIPLE CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSES	Under 15 years		15 - 65 years		Over 65 years		TOTAL	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory			1				1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other							-	-
3. Syphilitic disease							-	-
4. Diphthoria							-	-
5. Whooping Cough							-	-
6. Meningococcal infections							-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis							-	-
8. Measles							-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases							-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach						1	-	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus							-	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast							-	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus				1			-	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms					1		1	-
15. Leukemia, aplasia							-	-
16. Diabetes							-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system					4		4	-
18. Coronary disease, angina					2	2	2	2
19. Hypertension with heart disease							-	-
20. Other heart disease					3	5	3	5
21. Other circulatory disease					1		1	-
22. Influenza							-	-
23. Pneumonia							-	-
24. Bronchitis					1		1	-
25. Other diseases of respiratory system							-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum							-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea							-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis							-	-
29. Hypertrophy of prostate					1		1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion							-	-
31. Congenital malformations							-	-
32. Other defined and ill defined diseases	1				2		3	-
33. Motor vehicle accidents							-	-
34. All other accidents							-	-
35. Suicide							-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war							-	-
All causes	1	-	1	1	15	8	17	9

CAUSE OF DEATH IN INFANTS.

Cause	Age	Total
Blood Disease	4 hrs.	1

5. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Provided by the North Western Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

GENERAL HOSPITALS.

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing, Kempston Road, Bedford.
 Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
 The Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Luton.
 St. Mary's Hospital, Luton.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE HOSPITALS.

Spittlesea Isolation Hospital, Spittlesea, Nr. Luton.

CHEST CLINICS (FOR PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS).

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
 St. Mary's Hospital, Luton.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINICS.

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing.
 Males and Females, Wednesday 5 - 7 p.m., Friday 3 - 5 p.m.
 Luton and Dunstable Hospital.
 Males and Females, Monday to Friday 8.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m.
 Saturday 8.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
 Public Health Laboratory, Town Hall, Luton.

Provided by the Bedfordshire County Council.

(a) AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the demands that are occurring. It covers the full twenty-four hours, and is free of charge.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulance and sitting-case car transport is available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospital and Clinics at which attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other Authorised Person. This should be to the nearest depot.

The Service also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

Depots are situated as follows:-

AMPHILL, 14, Dunstable Street
 BEDFORD, Bedford Road, Kempston
 BIGGLESWADE, Crab Lane,
 DUNSTABLE, High Street North
 LUTON, 42, Church Street
 LINSLEDE, Bucks, County Council.

Telephone: Ampthill 3333
 Telephone: Bedford 5335
 Telephone: Biggleswade 2295
 Telephone: Dunstable 761
 Telephone: Luton 4600

10, New Road, Linslade Telephone: Leighton Buzzard 3332
 RUSHDEN, Rushden and District Motor Ambulance
 Association, Mr. C.C. Woods, 3 Purvis Road Telephone: Rushden 403

(b) DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

Administered by the Northern Divisional Health Committee.

The Nurse employed is:-

Nurse Evans, S.R.N., S.C.M., "Corway," Lyme Road, Ampthill.

Tel: Ampthill 2210.

(c) HEALTH VISITING SERVICE.

Miss E.V. Maberly, 11a, Pemberley Avenue, Bedford.

Tel: Bedford 61846.

(d) HOME HELP SERVICE.

Organiser:

Mrs. V.M. Pedley, 3, St. Peter's Street, Bedford.

(e) INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

1, Dunstable Street, Ampthill. Fridays 2 p.m.

(f) ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

1, Dunstable Street, Ampthill. Alternate Fridays 10 a.m.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Adoptive Acts.

Public Health Act, 1890. Parts i, ii, iii,

Public Health Act, 1925. Part i.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1953. Part i.

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

Byelaws and Regulations.

Building Byelaws

New Streets.

Nuisances Contrary to Public Decency.

Telegraph etc. Wires.

Water Regulations and Charges.

6. SCHOOLS.

With the opening of the new Secondary Modern School at Ampthill the schools were re-organised and one school closed, only one Primary School now remains in the district.

7. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water Supply.

The Ampthill Urban District Council's Waterworks situated at Clophill, has three boreholes sunk into the greensand which supply the whole of the Urban District, together with bulk supplies to the Ampthill Rural District Council.

The water is treated for hardness with Hydrated Buxton Lime, flows through sedimentation tanks, is treated with Calgon and chlorine, then filtered before passing into the pumping and distribution mains.

Daily tests are carried out for hardness and residual chlorine, and at monthly intervals bacteriological examinations are made of samples taken from various points in the area of supply. In addition periodical chemical analyses are made of the raw and treated water, and it is satisfactory to note that both the bacteriological and the chemical examinations have revealed a high standard of purity.

The water as passed into supply is slightly hard, averaging 14.2 parts per 100,000. It has no plumbo-solvent action.

Number of houses supplied from public mains in Ampthill	1033
Population in Ampthill supplied from public water mains approx.	3040
(a) Direct to houses	998 houses
(b) By means of private standpipes	35 houses

Bulk supplies of water are taken by the Ampthill Rural District for consumers in Clophill and Mauldon.

184 yards of 3-inch main was laid during the year to connect Quoons Road with Saunders Piece.

TYPICAL RESULT OF CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF SAMPLE OF TREATED WATER.

Parts per million.	
Nitrogen, Ammoniacal	0.06
" Albuminoid	0.03
" Nitrous	None
" Nitric	0.24
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins.	0.08
" " " 4 hours	0.33
Hardness, temporary	115.0
" permanent	75.0
Iron	0.3

2. Drainage and Sewerage.

The Sewage Disposal Works are sited at Abbey Lane and consists of the following:- Detritus and sedimentation tanks, rotary percolating filters, humus tanks, storm water overflows and sludge lagoons. The treated effluent discharges into Running Waters Brook which enters the River Flitt. During the year further sludge beds were constructed using Council labour, and the Consulting Engineers continued with the preparation of the extension scheme.

3. Rivers and Streams.

No complaints of pollution were received, but samples of sewage effluent and water from Running Waters Brook were not of a high standard.

4. Closet Accommodation.

The majority of the premises in the town have water carriage systems, but thirty-nine houses with no sewer available are drained to cesspools. Ten cottages (isolated cottages and agricultural dwellings) have only pail closets.

5. Public Cleansing.

The collection and disposal of house refuse has been carried out by a private contractor with a properly covered refuse collecting vehicle. A weekly collection is in operation and the refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at a site near Bedford Road Hill.

6. Salvage.

During the year 13 tons 18 cwt. of waste paper was collected and sold which realised the sum of £79. 13. 0. Only waste paper from business premises near the town centre was collected as it is found uneconomical to collect from houses and premises throughout the whole district.

7. Sanitary Inspection of Area.

The following is a summary of the Sanitary and other defects during the year:-

Premises with defective and insanitary closets	5
" " insufficient sanitary accommodation	2
" " insanitary and defective drains	9
" " insanitary and defective cesspools	2

Premises with defective windows, insufficient light and ventilation	3
" " defective floors	2
Dirty premises	-
Dangerous structure	1
Accumulations of offensive matter	2
Unsound meat and other foods	38
Rooms disinfected after infectious disease	5
Rooms disinfected for bed bugs, etc.	-
Nuisance from rats and mice	45
Other dilapidations	1
Number of statutory notices served	-
" " informal notices served	68
" " defective premises	47

8. Shops and Offices.

These establishments were inspected at intervals and were all found to be generally satisfactory, no formal action being necessary.

9. Camping Sites.

There are no camping sites within the Urban District and no persons or sites were licensed for caravans or moveable dwellings etc.

10. Smoke Abatement.

No complaints or smoke nuisance were received during the year.

11. Disinfestation.

No treatment was necessary.

8. HOUSING.

Twenty Council houses were completed during the year, making the total number of post-war dwellings 128, consisting of 104 traditional houses, 18 traditional type flats and six prefabricated bungalows. 5 private houses were completed and occupied.

The following private plans were approved under Building byelaws:-

5 houses	6 alterations to domestic premises
1 Agricultural building	11 alterations to business premises
	18 garages

Town and Country Planning.

Thirty-one applications under the Town and Country Planning Acts were received, of which twenty-six were approved, three withdrawn, and two refused.

Rodent Control.

A trained operator has been employed to carry out the destruction of rodents, make surveys, etc., and take such steps as to keep infestations down to the minimum. Regular treatments were carried out at the Refuse Tip and Sewage works and domestic and business premises were attended to as and when required. Regular surveys of ditches and streams in the district generally were carried out and the necessary treatment given. Tests and treatment of the Sewerage System were carried out in accordance with Ministry instructions.

9. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Number of Premises Handling Food and Visits Made Thereto.

(a) <u>Shops.</u>	Premises	Visits Made
1. Ice Cream Vendors	8	26
2. Bakers and confectioners	4	18
3. Grocers	3	7
4. Fishmongers	2	9

<u>Shops continued</u>	<u>Premises</u>	<u>Visits Made</u>
5. General stores	7	13
6. Delicatessen shops	-	--
7. Butchers	5	21
8. Dairies and retail milk distributors	4	19
(b) <u>Vans, Stalls and Hawkers</u>	2	11
(c) <u>Catering Establishments</u>		
1. Restaurants and cafes	4	17
2. Industrial canteens	-	--
3. School canteens	2	5
4. Hotels	1	6
5. Outside catering contractors	2	4
6. Fish and chip shops	1	7
7. Others	-	--
(d) <u>Manufacturing Establishments</u>		
1. Sausage makers	5	21
2. Meat pie and cooked meat makers	5	21
3. Bakehouses	2	9
4. Ice cream makers	1	5
5. Confectionery manufacturers	-	--
6. Others	-	--

Milk Supply

Regular inspections have been carried out of the two retailer's premises which were found to be satisfactory. Two dairies situated outside the district retail designated milk within the Urban area.

Meat and Other Foods

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

265 lbs. Beef	116 lbs. Fish
48 lbs. Pork	34 lbs. Bacon
115 tins of Food	

Butchers Shops

The five butcher's shops and premises have been inspected and found to be most satisfactory.

Bakehouses

These two premises have been visited regularly and found to be satisfactory. During September one of the businesses changed hands and the manufacture of bread and confectionery ceased on these premises.

Ice Cream Registrations

Eight premises are registered for the sale of ice cream, all of which sell a pre-packed article except for one where a "cold mix" is manufactured and sold. Samples were taken regularly and all were reported in grades 1 or 2 which is generally satisfactory.

Slaughtering Arrangements

Due to discontinuance of meat rationing three slaughterhouse premises were brought up to standard and subsequently licenced. Eight slaughtermen's licences were issued for use at these slaughterhouses.

10. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Cases of Infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Spittlesea Isolation Hospital.

The present policy of the North Western Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, which is now the authority for the admission to Hospital of patients suffering from infectious disease, is that Scarlet Fever and Measles should

be admitted only where it is considered advisable due to the seriousness of the illness, or to an unsatisfactory home environment.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Very few cases of infectious disease notified during the year, no deaths occurred.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

Notification by Age Groups.

Disease	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	over 15	Total	Removed to Hospital
Whooping Cough				1	1				2	
Scarlet Fever				1					1	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1								1	

Tuberculosis in Age Groups.

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 - 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 - 15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 - 35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 - 65	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
over 65	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...

Number on Register at End of Year.

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
M.	F.	M.	F.
8	2	-	4

Death Rates per 100,000 of the Population.

This District	...	...	32.8
Bedfordshire	...	...	9.1
England and Wales...	...	...	16.0

11. MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

The unit did not visit the district during the year.

12. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

Immunisation and vaccination is now the responsibility of the County Council and the state of protection of the children of the District is indicated by the tablos appearing below, which have been supplied by the Divisional Medical Officer.

Immunisation State of Child Population.

	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	Total under 15
Children completely protected (i.e. have received primary or booster injections since 1st. January, 1950.	9	164	149	73	395
Children partially protected (i.e. had received primary injections prior to 1st. January, 1950, but have had no booster since.			50	80	130
	9	164	199	153	525

Vaccination Carried Out During the Year.

	Under 1	1	2 - 4	5 - 14	15 and over	Total
Primary Vaccinations	7	1	3	-	1	12
Re-Vaccination					2	2

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

No action was required to be taken under these Acts.

CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS.Scabies.

By arrangement with the Borough of Bedford, infected persons are treated at the Borough Treatment Centre, Commercial Road, Bedford. The cost 10/-d. per treatment.

Where possible, arrangements are made for the other members of the household to attend for treatment as contacts at the same time as the infected person or persons.

During the year under review no treatments were given.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS. - No action was required under

Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.PART I OF THE ACT.

1. **INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
1. Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	4	13	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	10	24	-	-
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	2	4	-	-
Total	16	41	-	-

2. **CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.**

(if defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars	Number of cases defects found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)					
Overcrowding (S.2.)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
a. Insufficient	1	-			
b. Unsuitable or defective	2	2		1	
c. Not separate for sexes	1	1			
Other offences against the Acts (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
Total	4	3	-	1	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT. OUTWORK. (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of work	Section 110			Section 111		Prosecutions
	No. of outworkers in August list required by act. 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	
Wearing apparel-Making etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-

*i.e. Electrical Stations (Section 103) (1) Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

